R-2656 202/273-1991 www.nlrb.gov

NLRB ANNOUNCES THE DISPLAY OF AMERICAN FLAGS AT ALL AGENCY-CONDUCTED REPRESENTATIONAL ELECTIONS

The National Labor Relations Board has announced that the Labor Board's election processes have been modified to incorporate the display of an American flag at all Agency-conducted representational elections. This new element of the election process is based on the belief that the display of an American flag will impress upon all the participants to elections --employers, unions, and most importantly voters -- the solemnity and importance of the Agency's election process. General Counsel Meisburg noted that some of these voters, including new immigrants to our country, may be participating in free and fair elections for the first time. At the conclusion of what may be a contentious period of electioneering prior to balloting, these voters, like all participants and observers, should be reminded that the Agency's impartial election processes are guaranteed by the full force of the Federal Government. Field personnel conducting Agency elections will supply the flag and be trained in flag etiquette. The display of the American flag will in no way delay or otherwise impede the election process.

In announcing the new procedure, General Counsel Ronald Meisburg stated:

Display of the flag will lend dignity to the election process and communicate to all participants that they are involved in an official activity of the Government of the United States. For many of the voters in our elections, voting in a secret-ballot NLRB election may be their first experience with the democratic process. For all employees who cast ballots for or against union representation, our elections present an important opportunity to emphasize that the Government is truly serious about the promise of employee free choice guaranteed by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act.

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